



SAFETY ALERT #03-12-0002

DATE: June 18, 2012

INCIDENT TYPE: Roller Accident (**Caterpillar Roller CB-214C**)

LOCATION: District 3

TYPE OF WORK ACTIVITY: Rolling Base Rock

THE INCIDENT: A Caltrans crew was placing base rock on Highway 45 in Colusa County when this accident occurred. A CT Equipment Operator II was operating a Caterpillar CB-214C vibratory roller. The operator was rolling base rock on the shoulder. As he was finishing the edge of the compaction he felt the back of the roller catch. He knew he needed to straighten out the roller and get back up on the paved road. As he straightened the rollers front end, the front roller was in the vibrating mode. The vibration of the front roller moved the roller closer to the edge of the shoulder and roller slid down the shoulder about 18 inches and then rolled over on its side. The employee was wearing his seat belt. He braced himself in order to stay with the roller as it laid over. When bracing himself, his top leg bone compressed into his bottom leg bone creating a compression fracture.

CONCLUSIONS: The supervisor had gone over the operation of this piece of equipment with his staff. The roller operator was experienced and had operated this roller before. The roller operators need to be aware that when rolling base rock the rock can become unstable causing the roller to slide.

RECOMMENDATIONS: 1) Always review manufacturer's operating manual for equipment prior to putting it into operation; 2) Review all Code of Safe Operating Practices that apply to the operation, such as, Equipment General Code of Safe Practices and Rollers, Towable, Powered & Hand Operated; 3) Review Chapter 8 Protection of Workers' Sections 8.01 Managers' and Supervisors' Responsibilities, 8.02 Work Site Safety, and 8.34 Operations Maintenance Equipment and be done prior to paving operations or shoulder repair begins.

Rollers are not included in the Equipment Qualification Program. It is the responsibility of the supervisor to select the operator, ensure they understand the operating requirements, and ensure they are competent to operate the equipment.

Reminder: Tailgate safety meetings are required every 10 working days and before any new work assignment go over any hazards of the work operation including new equipment.